



From The Lily Pad

SUMMER 2025

*Thank you for receiving the **Nick Virgilio Haiku Association's** newsletter!*

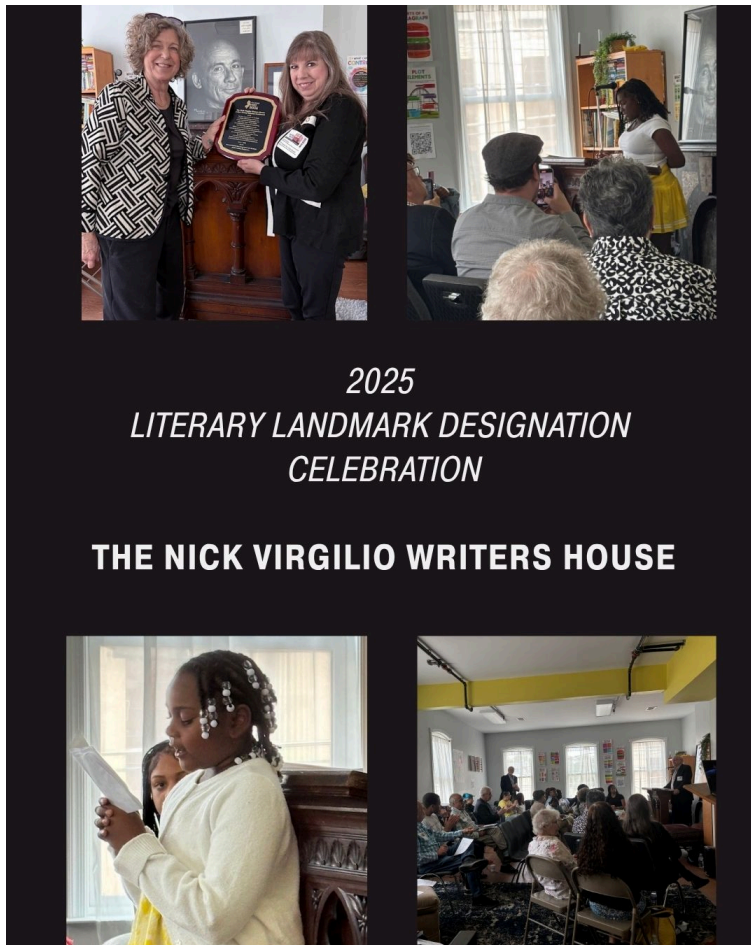
Providing free literary arts programs to local and global communities would be impossible without your support. For more information on the Nick Virgilio Haiku Association, please visit us at nickvirgiliohaiku.org.

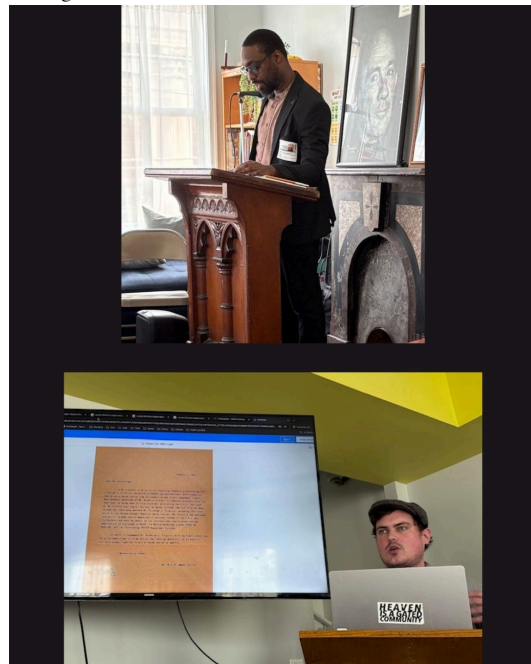
Consider supporting NVHA's work by donating [here](#).

We deeply appreciate your generous contributions and continuous support.



Nick Virgilio Writers House Designated as a Literary Landmark by the New Jersey Center for the Book (Affiliate of the Library of Congress)!





The New Jersey Center for the Book (NJCB), an affiliate of the Library of Congress, has chosen the Nick Virgilio Writers House as the 2025 recipient of its Literary Landmark Award.

We know that none of this would have been possible without the support of every consultant, partner, funder, and poet who keeps this organization going, and we want to thank you for supporting NHVA.

The Center for the Book names a Literary Landmark in each state annually, representing the state's literary, scientific, or artistic heritage and legacy. The selection of the Nick Virgilio Writers House recognizes the organization's commitment to promoting literacy, creativity, self-expression and the literary legacy of Camden poet Nick Virgilio – whose archives are preserved at the house. The Writers House operates under the Nick Virgilio Haiku Association, founded in 1989 to promote the writing of haiku poetry and to encourage young people to write poetry and further

the work of Virgilio, who remains a world renowned haiku poet. Previous recipients of the Literary Landmark Award include the Newark Public Library, the Walt Whitman House, and Rutgers Institute of Jazz Studies.

The award is bestowed on NVHA largely due to the work of archivist and poet Sean William Lynch, who has completed the conservation and cataloguing phase of NVHA's literary preservation project under the tutelage of emeritus Rutgers Camden professor Dr. Geoffrey Sill, and to NVHA's foray into teaching haiku in Camden schools.

The historical preservation project includes hundreds of documents that are either rare or one of a kind artifacts of the Camden poet Nick Virgilio. Their current work consists of writing and editing the manuscript of historical correspondences between Nick Virgilio and other prominent poets during the era of the burgeoning English-language haiku movement, which will be published as a book to convey the significance of haiku in literature to a wider audience, and to give Camden city and county residents the opportunity to explore the rich history of the arts in South Jersey that is often overlooked. The completed project will feature a digital platform that will complement an in-person exhibit at the Writers House where users can explore Virgilio's life, work, and his influence on the haiku community through online annotations, creating a cohesive, immersive educational experience for all visitors.

In 2025 NVHA began teaching haiku in Camden public schools, with the added goal of highlighting the introspective nature of writing poetry. The initiative's objectives are to increase access to creative writing education, build students' capacity for contemplation and reflection, and equip children with early written communication skills. After a short development phase with poet/educator Warren Longmire and Vanessa Woods, LPC, the organization debuted a healing-centered and project-based poetry curriculum for children ages 9-12 at Cooper's Poynt Family School and Davis Elementary School. Taught by longtime haiku educator Therese Halscheid and Sacred Heart teacher and Camden resident Jovaan Torres, the curriculum emphasized the meditative and reflective nature of writing, a powerful tool in helping developing minds process and navigate difficult experiences.

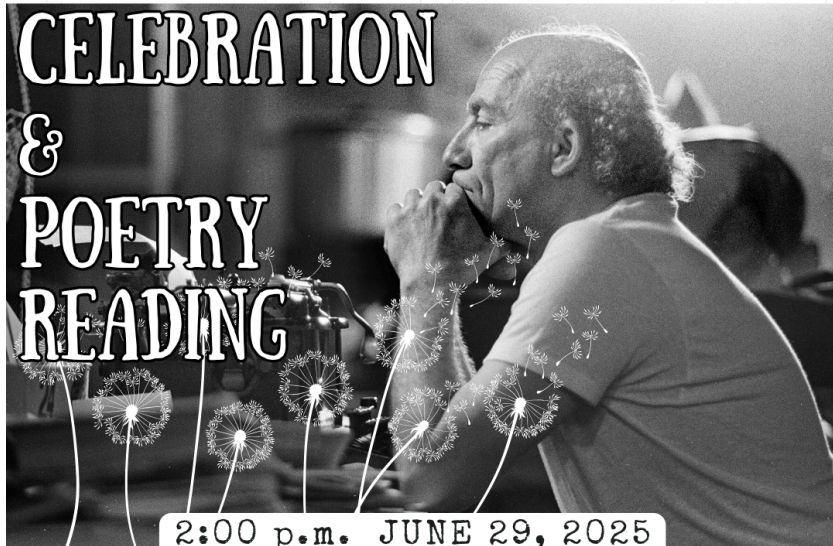
A special thanks to:

- Judi Tolchin, Sharon Rawlins, Rosemary Parrillo, and Phyllis Anker for attending the celebration in representation for The New Jersey Center for the Book.
- Mighty Writers Camden for the phenomenal literacy and food distribution programs they run from the Nick Virgilio Writers House.
- The Holman Foundation for funding our teaching haiku in Camden city schools!
- The Camden County Cultural and Heritage Commission for funding the archival project which digitizes Nick Virgilio's correspondences with other prominent American haiku poets.

-Tracey Newman, Health and Social Services Coordinator for Davis Family School and Denisha Warren, Health and Social Services Coordinator for Cooper's Poynt Family School.
- Haiku educators Therese Halscheid and Jovaan Torres.

The Nick Virgilio Annual Gravsite Celebration & Poetry Reading: June 29th!

THE NICK VIRGILIO ANNUAL GRAVSITE CELEBRATION & POETRY READING



2:00 p.m. JUNE 29, 2025

Harleigh Cemetery, Camden NJ

***Poetry readings, an open-mic,
cake + fellowship.**



You're invited to join NVHA for Nick Virgilio's birthday bash at 1640 Haddon Ave from 2 PM until on June 29th--free to the public.

Bring a lawn chair and some poetry to share for an outdoor open-mic (any short form of poetry is welcome) and grab a slice of cake. We'll be checking the weather forecast, so check our social media for plans in case of rain. The rain location will be: The Victor Pub, 1 Market St., Camden NJ 08102.

Bring a friend who loves poetry!

The Next Midnight Notes Session: June 28th







Our next Midnight Notes session will be at the NV Writers House on June 28th!

Meet us at the Writer's House at 1801 Broadway in Camden, NJ from 8:30 PM EDT - 10 PM for the next session. New time, same energy! We hope a new start time might make attendance a bit easier.

These late-night workshops are designed as a communal space for poets to learn from one another and write together on a common theme each night. Each session offers refreshments, all of which is completely free to attendees.

In partnership with the Rutgers University Camden's Year of the Arts, NVHA is hosting the Midnight Notes at the RUC Writers House on select dates in 2025. The next dates at the RUC Writers House are: **August 12th,**

and November 18th. All Rutgers dates will be at from 7 PM EDT - 9 PM EDT.

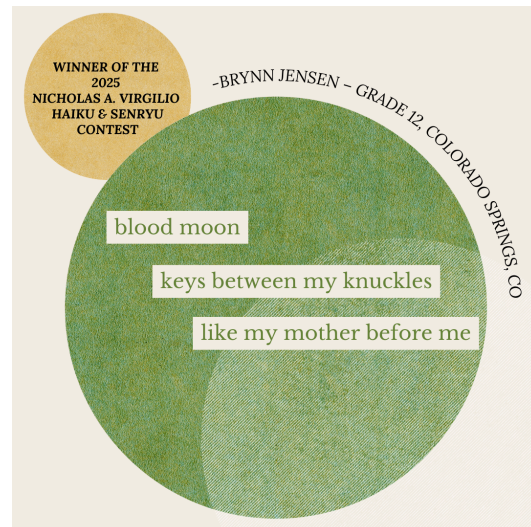
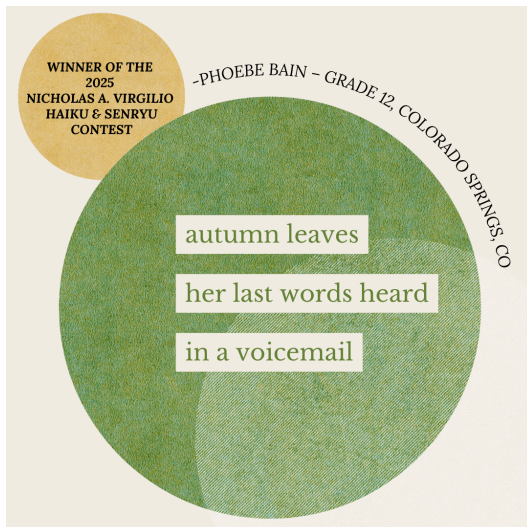
For any session that you can't join in-person, you can join our host's live stream of this session on Instagram @mrstarwind.

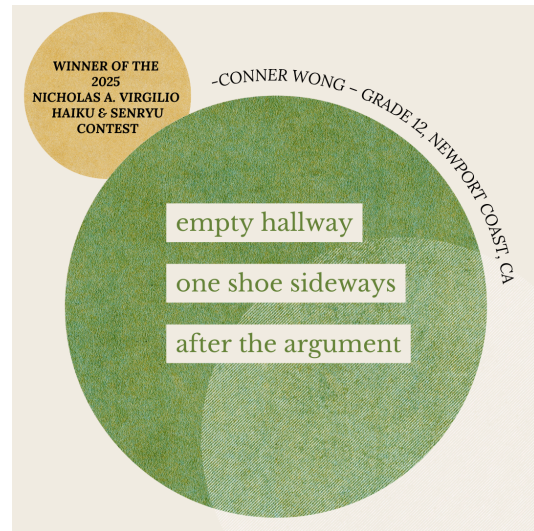
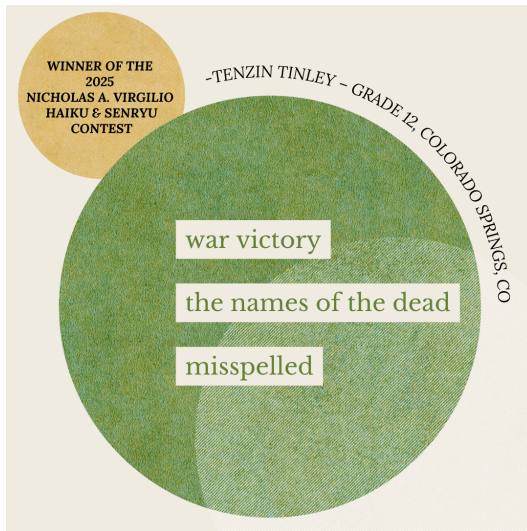
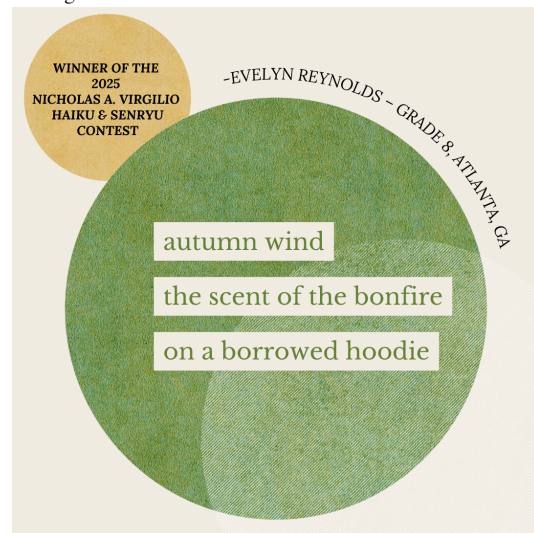
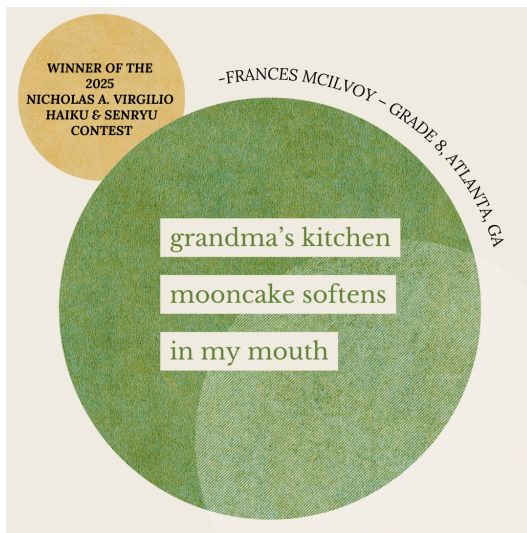
Curious about what the Midnight Notes is all about? Relive the moments here on [Instagram](#).

Thank you specifically to our sponsors the Camden County Cultural and Heritage Commission (CCCHC) and the New Jersey Arts and Cultural Renewal Fund of the Princeton Area Community Foundation for helping us keep this program **free** for attendees.

Follow us on social media for all updates on the Midnight Notes!

Congratulations to the Winners of the 2025 Nicholas A. Virgilio Haiku and Senryu Contest!





The results of the 2025 Nicholas A. Virgilio Student Haiku and Senryu Contest are in! Please help us in congratulating this year's winners, out of more than 2,000 entries worldwide:

-Phoebe Bain
Grade 12, Colorado Springs, CO

-Brynn Jensen
Grade 12, Colorado Springs, CO

-Frances McIlvoy
Grade 8, Atlanta GA

-Evelyn Reynolds
Grade 8, Atlanta GA

-Tenzin Tinley
Grade 12, Colorado Springs, CO

-Connor Wong
Grade 12, Newport Coast, CA

This year's judges were Eavonka Ettinger and John Pappas. Read more about the judges and their full commentary over at the Haiku Society of America's website--click below to view. You can also take a look at winning entries from previous years. We're sending a huge thank you to all students who submitted haiku or senryu to the contest this year--it's a pleasure to be able to read so many brilliant poems from young minds every year, and we encourage each and every student to keep writing.

[View Judges' Commentary](#)

Open Call for Board Members Who Reside and/or Work in Camden, NJ

Founded in 1989 to honor Camden city native and haiku poet Nick Virgilio, NVHA is a writing and poetry education organization dedicated to the creative and

mindful exercise of the written word in all forms, but especially haiku and short-form poetry. We encourage literacy and all forms of written creative arts, while fostering a sense of connected community.

To better serve and represent the Camden poetry community, we invite Camden residents and/or workers to apply for a seat on the NVHA Board of Directors. This application is open to all, but priority will be given to people who work, reside, or have a connection to Camden, NJ. (Particularly those who bring skills in education, poetry, administration, fundraising, and/or a passion for creating a stronger community.)

We have an exciting and engaged working board that boasts diverse professional backgrounds. Board members are required to participate in **a minimum of 7 out of 12 board conference calls per year (which may be virtual conference calls or in-person)**, and are expected to commit to their seat for a minimum of one year. All Board members are also encouraged to help design and participate in fundraising and development activities throughout the year.

Please find the application form below. Contact NVHA Program Manager Camille Wilson at cwilson@nickvirgiliohaiku.org or President Robin Palley at rpalley@nickvirgiliohaiku.org with any questions! You can expect an email response within a week of submitting this application.

[View Application](#)

Thank you to the Camden County Cultural and Heritage
Commission,
The Holman Foundation, and the New Jersey Arts and
Cultural Renewal Fund of the Princeton Area Community
Foundation for their generous contributions to
free public poetry programming.



Made possible by funds from the Camden County Cultural & Heritage Commission at Camden County College, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

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